

## REPORT

CD NO.

DATE OF  
INFORMATION 1951 - 1952

DATE DIST. 18 Nov 1952

NO. OF PAGES 4

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

INCREASE IN USSR PASSENGER AND FREIGHT HAULING IN 1952;  
EXTENSION OF ROAD BUILDING

In the Latvian SSR, a new bus line was opened recently between Riga and Lepaya anl, at present, there are 113 bus routes totaling more than 8,000 kilometers in that republic.(5) During 1946-1951, the Latvian SSR bus fleet increased four times, and passenger traffic increased 19 times.(6)

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In the Uzbek SSR, the Tashkent Automobile Operating Base No 1 has opened bus service between Tashkent and Samarakand.(7) Also, thousands of passengers in Tashkent are hauled daily by taxi. In 1952, taxis began to provide service over suburban routes within a radius of 50 kilometers of Tashkent. The Ministry of Automobile Transport Uzbek SSR will receive new taxis in 1952 for distribution among all cities of the republic.(8)

The Ministry of Automobile Transport Azerbaydzhan SSR announced the opening of bus service on 17 July 1952 between Baku, Stepanakert, and Shysya (9); the Ministry of Automobile Transport Georgian SSR has put five new buses in operation at the health resorts of Sukhumi and Batumi.(10)

A new bus line has been started in the Belorussian SSR between Brest and the suburban settlements of Trishino and Adanakovc. At present, Brest has passenger bus service with 11 oblast rayons.(11)

In the hauling of freight, the Ministry of Automobile Transport USSR pledged to haul 196,000 ton-kilometers of freight above plan by 10 December 1952.(12) The Stalingradgidrostroy (Organization for the Construction of the Stalingrad Hydroelectric Project) hauled 4 million tons of various commodities by motor transport during the first 6 months of 1952 (13); enterprises of the Ministry of Automobile Transport Tadzhik SSR fulfilled their 1952 second-quarter hauling plan 109 percent.(14)

Between 1946-1951, the Latvian SSR increased its truck fleet 90 percent, and doubled its freight-hauling volume. At present, the hauling of construction materials, coal, peat, wood, petroleum products, baked goods, flour, metals, and other commodities is centralized very successfully in a number of cities.(6)

In the Lithuanian SSR, more than 100 drivers of the vil'nyus Motor Transport Office have pledged to drive their trucks over 100,000 kilometers without requiring any capital repairs.(15)

A large-scale road-building program is also under way in the Soviet Union. In 1951-1955, the USSR plans to build and reconstruct 50 percent more hard-surfaced roads than in the 1946-1951 period.(16) About 500,000 trees were removed in Brestskaya Oblast during the past 3 years in the construction of paved and dirt roads.(11) The 1951 plan for the construction of roads was fulfilled in the Moskovskaya, Tyumenskaya, Vladimirskaya, Gor'kovskaya, Chkalovskaya, and other oblasts.(17)

A main highway is being built along the left bank of the Volga River between Kuybyshev and Zhiguli. The road has been completed in some sections; in others, the roadbed is being laid. A bridge for vehicles and pedestrians crosses the Sok River at Tzarev Kurgan.(18) A surveying expedition from Soyuzdorproyekt (All-Union Office for Road Planning) is making surveys for the construction of a main highway which will unite Takhia-Tash and Krasnovodsk.(19)

Despite this progress, there are many shortcomings such as lack of sufficient repair facilities, shortage of automobile parts, inefficient use of two-axle trailers, lack of qualified drivers, poor roads, use of trucks for personal use, improper maintenance, and poor service to passengers.

In the Uzbek SSR, the Avtotraktorosbyt (Office of the Main Administration for Automobile and Tractor Sales) does not supply motor transport with spare parts. For example, it is impossible to obtain filtering elements for oil filters.(20) In the Moldavian SSR, the Kishi av Automobile-Repair Plant has not fulfilled its plans since 1948, mainly because of lack of planning and mismanagement.

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In answer to the demands of customers for vehicles, the management claims lack of parts. Despite the complaints made to it, the Ministry of Automobile Transport Moldavian SSR has done nothing up to now to alter the situation.(21)

In a number of motor transport enterprises, a practice has developed of taking trucks for personal use as passenger cars without paying drivers' wages or fuel costs. The directors of the enterprises and motor pools frequently issue gas to individuals for personal use and charge it to the motor vehicle fleet.(22)

Despite the fact that the Latvian SSR fulfilled its freight-hauling plan in 1951, vehicles were utilized only 53 percent. Two-axle trailers, especially, were used very inefficiently.(6) In Riga, technical service is unorganized; there is no place to wash vehicles or to make light repairs.(23)

In a number of rayons of Moskovskaya Oblast, the population is forced to use trucks for passenger conveyances. The Moskovskaya Oblast Motor Trust lacks sufficient repair facilities. Its vehicles must be taken to Leningrad and Ivanov for capital repairs, while vehicles from other oblasts are brought to the Tsentrsoyuz Automobile Plant at Lyubertsy for repairs. The poor condition of many roads used by buses and taxis in the oblast is causing disruptions in service.(1)

The Sanchursk - Yoshar - Ola Highway in Sanchurskiy Rayon, Kirovskaya Oblast, is neglected very badly, but neither the rayon nor the oblast soviets are making any effort to repair it. Despite the fact that over 400,000 rubles were spent in repairing the Krasnodar-Yeysk highway, it is still unsuitable for normal automobile and truck traffic. The lack of a bridge across the Verbyud Fountain near the boundary of Krasnoyarskiy Kray and Irkutskaya Oblast is causing drivers great inconvenience. Passage through this section is bad even in dry weather; in rainy weather, cars frequently bog down. Neither the road authorities in Krasnoyarskiy Kray nor the ones in Irkutskaya Oblast are willing to assume responsibility for the construction of a bridge at the location.(17)

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6. Sovetskaya Latvija, 25 Jun 52
7. Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 26 Jun 52
8. Pravda Vostoka, 29 Aug 52
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18. Ashkhabad, Turkmeneskaya Iskra, 21 Jun 52
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21. Kishinev, Sovetskaya Moldaviya, 17 Aug 52
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23. Sovetskaya Latviya, 16 Aug 52

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